

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 1944

The Annual Meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on January 4, 1944, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Comstock in the chair; nineteen members and visitors present.

The Treasurer's report for 1943 was read. Dr. Schneirla reported that the Auditing Committee had found the Treasurer's books in good order. Both these reports were accepted.

The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the elective officers of the Society for the year 1944 were read as follows:

President—Edwin Way Teale
Vice President—George G. Becker
Secretary—Annette L. Bacon
Treasurer—Willis J. Gertsch
Assistant Secretary—Lina Sordillo
Assistant Treasurer—Margaret L. Guy
Editor—Harry B. Weiss

Executive Committee—Edwin Way Teale, Stanley Bromley, William P. Comstock, William T. Davis, and Herbert F. Schwarz.

Publication Committee—Harry B. Weiss, T. C. Schneirla, and John D. Sherman, Jr.

There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion was made and passed that the secretary cast one ballot and elect the above proposed officers of the Society for the year 1944.

Mr. Comstock then turned the meeting over to the new president, Mr. Teale.

The following committees were appointed by Mr. Teale:

Program Committee—William P. Comstock, Henry S. Fleming, and Alan S. Nicolay.

Field Committee—George C. Furness and Chris E. Olsen.

Dr. Bromley presented the following resolution which was adopted:

“WHEREAS, in the death of Dr. E. Porter Felt on December 14, 1943, the New York Entomological Society has lost one of its oldest and most highly esteemed members, and

“WHEREAS, the New York Entomological Society wishes to express the sorrow of its members to the family of the deceased and to bespeak their tribute to one who had been so faithful and revered a member of this Society, and one so important to the entire broad field of the science of Entomology.

“*Be it resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to prepare a letter of condolence and sympathy to the surviving members of Dr. Felt's family to be sent to his youngest daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth F. Deane, 51 Beekman Road, Summit, New Jersey, Administratrix of his estate.”

A motion was made and carried that Mr. Samuel Harriot, who resigned at the beginning of last year, be, at his own request, reinstated to membership.

A discussion of what to do with the old incomplete sets of signatures of the Society's Journal took place. Although several years ago it was suggested that the Society dispose of these signatures after the members had a chance to pick out any that they wanted, members elected since then did not know of this plan. Therefore, it was announced that no action would be taken until the February 1 meeting at which time a vote of the members would be taken concerning the disposal of the signatures as waste paper.

Mr. Comstock spoke of the Relationships of Antillean Butterflies, the material for which was taken from his Puerto Rican Survey paper which is in press (to be published by the New York Academy of Sciences) and from a joint paper with Mr. Huntington on Antillean Lycenidæ that has just been published by the Academy.

MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 1944

President Teale in the chair; 26 members and visitors present.

The Executive Committee reported as follows: At a special meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 18, 1944, with Mr. Comstock, Mr. Schwarz, and Mr. Teale present, Mr. Wm. T. Davis was appointed the Society's delegate to the New York Academy of Sciences for the year 1944. This report was approved by the members present.

Mr. John Noaks, 500 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, was proposed for membership.

Father Joseph Asmuth of Fordham University spoke on his Termite Observations in India.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 1944

President Teale in the chair; 13 members and visitors present.

Mr. John Noaks was elected a member of the Society.

After a short discussion it was decided that the old signatures of the Journal be turned into the salvage drive for waste paper inasmuch as the Society had an ample supply of complete issues of the Journal. (The Society received fifteen dollars for them.)

Mr. Alan S. Nicolay told of the work he had done with Coleoptera during the last year at museums where he studied other collections and discovered some synonymies, and in the field, especially in New Jersey but also in the southern states, where he collected some interesting things.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 1944

President Teale in the chair; 21 members and visitors present.

Mr. Gustav Detgen, 303 W. 42nd St., New York City, was proposed for membership.

Mr. Comstock discussed the matter of a contribution from the Society for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to assist it in carrying on its work.

Dr. Daniel Ludwig of New York University spoke on Relative Humidity and Insect Development. (A summary of his work appeared in Science Supplement for February 25, page 12.)

MEETING OF MARCH 7, 1944

President Teale in the chair; 18 members and visitors present.

The following report of the Executive Committee was read and approved:

"At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the New York Entomological Society held in the American Museum of Natural History on March 7, 1944, Messrs. Teale, Comstock, Davis and Schwarz were present.

"The principal business under discussion concerned the matter of unpaid dues for membership and unpaid subscriptions to the Journal. A motion was made and passed that dues for membership would be remitted to members of the armed services on application, the treasurer to include such a notice when bills are sent out. As for delinquent members not in the armed forces, it was agreed that the treasurer would have to consider each case on its own merits and is hereby empowered to act according to his best judgment. In regard to unpaid subscriptions to the Journal, it was moved and passed that the Journal shall not be sent to anyone a year in arrears. This is according to postal regulations. (That is, if a subscription for the Journal has not been paid for 1943, it will not be sent to the subscriber in 1944 and after, until the subscription has been paid.)

"There was also a discussion of electing more Honorary Members of the Society. No action was taken at this meeting."

Mr. Comstock reported that he had collected \$78.00 from members of the Society to be sent to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature as a gift from this Society. A motion was then made and passed that the Society give \$100.00 to the Commission, said money to be given by members of the Society for this purpose.

Mr. G. Detgen was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Harold Hagan of the College of the City of New York spoke on the work he had been doing on the embryonic history of the appendages of the mantid.

MEETING OF MARCH 21, 1944

President Teale in the chair; 75 members and visitors present.

Because of the number of visitors present, all business was postponed to the next regular meeting.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Rutherford Platt, showed many unusual and excellent Kodachrome slides illustrating the relationship of insects and flowers, or "How Plants and Insects Fit Each Other."

MEETING OF APRIL 4, 1944

President Teale in the chair; 16 members and visitors present.

Mr. Weiss proposed Mr. William M. Boyd, 170 Millerick Ave., Trenton, N. J., for re-election into the Society. As he was a former member, the By-Laws were waived and he was elected a member.

Mr. Sanford proposed Mr. Raymond Goelbert, 71-15 65th St., Glendale, N. Y., for membership in the Society.

Mr. Comstock presented the following report of the Executive Committee of the Society:

“The Executive Committee of the New York Entomological Society, at their last meeting, after careful consideration of a long list of candidates, made a selection of eight eminent entomologists, who, as the result of life-long devotion to our science, seem to the Executive Committee to be worthy, and whom they now propose as Honorary Members of the Society.

“The selections were controlled by several considerations:

- 1) Eminence in the science of Entomology.
- 2) Outstanding qualifications as naturalists and scientists.
- 3) Services to the Society, past and present.
- 4) Individual diversity of interest in particular families of insects.

“Our by-laws limit us to 12 honorary members. At present we have but one honorary member, Dr. Leland O. Howard. The eight eminent men now to be proposed will raise the number of honorary members to nine and in the judgment of the Executive Committee it seems best not to increase this number for the present. We now propose as Honorary Members of the New York Entomological Society:

Prof. Nathan Banks
 Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell
 Mr. William T. Davis
 Dr. J. McDunnough
 Prof. A. L. Melander
 Prof. James G. Needham
 Prof. Herbert Osborn
 Dr. Robert E. Snodgrass.”

Mr. Comstock then gave a short biographical sketch of each of the above.

The scheduled speaker of the evening was unable to be present. Mr. Geo. G. Becker told of the work at the plant inspection house at Hoboken. He had a number of slides showing the work of the Bureau of Plant Quarantine, and related some unusual situations that the inspectors are called upon to meet.

MEETING OF APRIL 18, 1944

President Teale in the chair; about a hundred members and visitors present.

Mr. R. Goelbert was elected a member of the Society.

The eight entomologists proposed at the last meeting as honorary members of the Society were elected.

The Society heard with regret of the death of Mr. George C. Furness, one of our active members, on April 10, 1944.

Dr. C. B. Williams from England was one of the guests of the evening.

President Teale was the speaker and told of his “Garden for Insects,” showing his excellent colored motion pictures.

MEETING OF MAY 2, 1944

A regular meeting was held on May 2, 1944, at the U. S. Inspection House in Hoboken, N. J., with 19 members and visitors present.

Mr. Comstock proposed Mr. Gardiner Mulvaney, 3 Patchin Place, New York City, for membership.

Mr. George Becker, head of the Inspection House, conducted the group around the Inspection House, showing its facilities for the various activities. He gave a very interesting and thorough explanation of its operation and answered many questions during the tour.

MEETING OF MAY 16, 1944

President Teale in the chair; 16 members and visitors present.

Miss Lucy Clausen was appointed a member of the Field Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Furness.

Mr. Chris Olsen gave details concerning the Entomological Society's picnic to be held at his home in Nyack on June 4. The Field Committee sent instructions through the mail as to how to reach there. (Due to Mr. Olsen's illness, the picnic was held at the home of the Engelhardt's—Elizabeth Sherman—in Hartsdale.)

Mr. Gardiner Mulvaney was elected a member of the Society.

A motion was made and passed that the Society donate its complete set of the *Revista de Entomologia* to the library of the American Museum.

Answers were received from the recently elected Honorary Members of the Society. They accepted with much pleasure the honor thus bestowed upon them and conveyed to the members of the Society their appreciation.

There was a general discussion by those present of their winter activities. Mr. Sherman told of his long trip to the West Coast and his interesting experiences.

ANNETTE L. BACON, *Secretary*.

LINA SORDILLO, *Assistant Secretary*.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 1944

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on October 3, 1944, in the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Teale in the chair with twenty-two members and visitors present.

Dr. Clarence Goodnight, New Jersey State Teachers College, Jersey City, N. J., and Mr. R. C. Casselberry, 55 Edgemont Road, Scarsdale, were proposed for membership.

A letter from the Treasury Department was read which stated that the N. Y. Entomological Society is exempt from Federal income tax. The Society will be required, however, to file a return with the collector of internal revenue annually.

A communication from the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, London, England, expressed thanks for the \$100.00 gift which the Society has contributed to the Commission's Special (Publications) Fund.

The resignation of Annette Bacon, as Secretary of the Society, due to the pressure of outside work was accepted with regret. The Assistant Secretary, Lina Sordillo, assumed the duties of Secretary for the remainder of the year.

The death of Charles Wunder who died on September 21, 1944, and the illness of William T. Davis were noted with regrets.

The program of the evening was a general discussion on summer activities and observations of the members.

LINA SORDILLO, *Secretary*.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 1944

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on October 17, 1944, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Edwin Teale in the chair with thirty-one members and visitors present.

Dr. C. J. Goodnight, New Jersey State Teachers College, and Mr. R. C. Casselberry, 55 Edgemont Road, Scarsdale, were elected members of the Society.

A letter from the Zoological Society of London, asking if it would be possible for us to send them a donation to the Zoological Record Fund again this year was read. The Zoological Society of London is being very hard hit at the present time. Donations to the Society for this worthy purpose may be mailed to or given personally to Mr. Comstock or Dr. Gertsch.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. S. W. Bromley of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, Stamford, Conn., who spoke on the "Insect Enemies of the House Fly," the text of which will appear in a later issue of the Journal of the Society. Dr. Bromley discussed hornets, robber flies and dragon flies as house fly enemies and presented records going back to 1908 when the house fly was more abundant than at present.

Mr. Teale mentioned reading recently an early account of American pioneers in which it was stated that it was a custom among the people to place the nest of a white faced hornet in the cabin during the summer so that the hornets would destroy the flies, the buzzing wasps living in complete harmony with the human inhabitants.

LINA SORDILLO, *Secretary*.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 1944

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on November 21, 1944, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Edwin Teale in the chair with sixteen members and visitors present.

Lt. Edmund C. Berkeley, 36 West 11 St., New York 11, N. Y., was proposed for membership.

Mr. Comstock reported that he had collected \$85.00 from members of the Society, \$20.00 promised, to be sent to the Zoological Record Found of London, as a gift from this Society.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. J. L. Horsfall, who spoke on "A method for determining leafhopper populations in grape vineyards," illustrated by lantern slides. A special method for determining grape leafhopper populations was described. Essentially, it consists of selecting certain leaves, collecting them, separating the leafhoppers and determining the total catch by counting the number in an aliquot of the sample. Studies indicate

that it is rapid, reasonably accurate, sufficiently simple to be used by helpers, adapted to field studies and requires inexpensive equipment. The errors due to this special manner of counting appear to be no greater than those occurring in duplicate samples from the same vines, and give very small discrepancies in calculating per cent control especially where the efficiency is 75 per cent or greater.

The amount of variation in populations in different parts of the same vineyard was found to be practically as great as between different vineyards.

LINA SORDILLO, *Secretary*.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 1944

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on December 5, 1944, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Edwin Teale in the chair with fifty members and visitors present.

Lt. Edmund C. Berkeley was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Paul Buxbaum, 360 Central Park West, New York City, was proposed for membership.

Mr. Comstock reported that he had collected \$90.00 from members of the Society, \$15.00 promised, to be sent to the Zoological Record Fund of London, as a gift from this Society.

Mr. Sherman told of the illness of Mr. William T. Davis.

Dr. J. L. Horsfall reported that the Joint Meeting of the Entomological Society of America and the American Association of Economic Entomologists is to be held on December 13, 14 and 15, 1944, at the Hotel New Yorker.

The President and Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History invited the Society to attend an informal tea, to open the exhibition of Animals in Miniature by Louis Paul Jonas, December 15, 1944, from 4:00 to 6:00 in the Portrait Room.

President Edwin Teale appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of Mr. Schwarz, Chairman, Mr. Sherman and Mr. Huntington.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. E. Irving Huntington, who spoke on "Ecology of the West Indies and Panama," illustrated by lantern slides.

Mr. Huntington had made several trips to the West Indies, Panama and Colombia, and he made numerous photographs, showing the nature of the country and the collecting conditions to be met with. He discussed the ecology of the Greater and Lesser Antilles, pointing out the Greater Antilles presumably in the past were a connected land mass, while the Lesser Antilles were in the form of two arcs, both of volcanic origin; the northern arc being more ancient and known as the limestone Caribees, while the southern arc was of more recent volcanic origin. The fauna of the Greater Antilles is much richer than that of the Lesser Antilles. Mr. Huntington also spoke of his collecting experiences in Trinidad and in Panama.

LINA SORDILLO, *Secretary*.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 1944

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held on

December 19, 1944, in the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. George G. Becker in the chair with twenty-one members and visitors present.

Mr. Paul Buxbaum was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Comstock reported that he had collected \$95.00 from members of the Society, \$15.00 promised, to be sent to the Zoological Record Fund of London, as a gift from this Society.

President Teale appointed an Auditing Committee consisting of Wm. P. Comstock, Chairman; E. I. Huntington, and Herbert F. Schwarz.

The paper of the evening was delivered by Mr. Chris E. Olsen, his subject being Homoptera which he discussed in a broad way, illustrating his talk with six boxes of local and exotic specimens. He also exhibited a number of magnificent water color drawings showing, in an enlarged scale, many of the astounding variations which occur in these insects. These were the work of the late Mr. Mataush. Of interest to many of the members were Mr. Olsen's reminiscence of the old collectors and members of the Society whom he knew so well. He mentioned the old meetings in George Franck's store and those who used to gather there: Torre Bueno, George P. Engelhardt, Dr. E. B. Southwick, R. P. Dow, Andrew Mutchler and William T. Davis. He also spoke of many other prominent entomologists whom he had known and with whom he had corresponded. He estimated that there were somewhere around 4000 species of Homoptera in North America, excluding plant-lice and scale insects. His main taxonomic discussion concerned the Homoptera, particularly the series Auchenorrhyncha.

LINA SORDILLO, *Secretary.*